

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A water-soluble salt tablet comprising:
between 97.5% and 98.8% of NaCl, iodine, K ions, Ca ions, and Mg ions,
the ions being present as the chlorides and/or sulphates thereof, wherein said tablets
are formed from dehydrated granules having a particles size distribution between 0.8 mm and
1.1. mm and wherein the Mg ions are present in an amount between 0.4% and 0.9%, the
percentages being by weight on a dry basis.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The water-soluble salt tablet according to claim 1,
comprising:

between 0.3% and 0.8% of K ions,
between 0.4% and 0.9% of Ca ions, and
between 0.00053% and 0.0012% of iodine, the percentages being by weight on a dry
basis.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The water-soluble salt tablet according to claim 1,
wherein the ~~same are~~ salt tablet is of predetermined weight.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The water-soluble salt tablet as claimed in claim 2,
wherein said salt is a natural integral sea salt ~~for food use~~.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): A method for producing the water soluble salt tablet of present claim 1, the method comprising:

grinding a salt to give a ground salt,
dehydrating the ground salt to give the dehydrated granules having ~~The method for producing water soluble tablets of a food grade salt, wherein the salt specified in claim 1, is subjected to grinding treatment and then to dehydration treatment to give a salt with particles having~~ a particle size distribution between 0.8 mm and 1.1 mm, and
compressing metered quantities of the dehydrated salt granules at ~~obtained in this manner finally being subjected to compression treatment~~ between 160 and 180 bar for a time between about 3 and 4 seconds to form the water soluble salt tablets.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein ~~said salt dehydration treatment~~ the dehydrating is effected in a hot air stream at a temperature of between about 170°C and 190°C.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 6 ~~claim 5~~, wherein ~~said dehydration treatment~~ the dehydrating in the hot air stream is [[by]] conducted in a fluidized bed drier fed with methane and with separate discharges for the spent air.

Claim 8 (New): The method of claim 5, wherein the dehydrating is effected in a hot air stream at a temperature of 180°C.

Claim 9 (New): The salt tablet of claim 1, wherein the salt tablet comprises 97.5% of NaCl on a dry weight basis.

Claim 10 (New): The salt tablet of claim 1, wherein the salt tablet comprises 98.8% of NaCl on a dry weight basis.

Claim 11 (New): The salt tablet of claim 2, wherein the salt tablet comprises 0.3% of K ions on a dry weight basis.

Claim 12 (New): The salt tablet of claim 2, wherein the salt tablet comprises 0.8% of K ions on a dry weight basis.

Claim 13 (New): The salt tablet of claim 2, wherein the salt tablet comprises 0.4% of Ca ions on a dry weight basis.

Claim 14 (New): The salt tablet of claim 2, wherein the salt tablet comprises 0.9% of Ca ions on a dry weight basis.

Claim 15 (New): The salt tablet of claim 2, wherein the salt tablet comprises 0.00053% of iodine on a dry weight basis.

Claim 16 (New): The salt tablet of claim 2, wherein the salt tablet comprises 0.0012% iodine on a dry weight basis.

Claim 17 (New): The salt tablet of claim 1, wherein the ions are present as chlorides.

Claim 18 (New): The salt tablet of claim 1, wherein the ions are present as sulphates.

Claim 19 (New): The salt tablet of claim 1, wherein the ions are present as chlorides and sulfates.